



## Making Tracks

**Editor:** Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*  
**Layout:** Rene Parker, *Administrative Staff Assistant*



**Making Tracks**  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

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## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112  
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

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### Regal Eagles

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(All Ages) The Mississippi River is key winter habitat for migrating bald eagles. Discover how and where these magnificent birds live. You can even put your nest-building skills to the test! And, since January is the best time of year to view Missouri's royalty, we'll fill you in on some of the best spots to find them. *Naturalist: Amy Anderson.* (Reservations begin immediately.)

### Bird Workshop for Educators

Saturday, January 21  
9 a.m. – Noon

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Are you interested in using birds to teach concepts and skills in science? This workshop will present Flying WILD, a new program of the Council for Environmental Education that introduces middle school students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects. Activities can easily be adapted for upper elementary students. Support materials, including *Flying WILD: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds*, will be provided. A materials fee of \$10 is due on the day of the workshop. To register, call (636) 458-2236.



# Making Tracks

## St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

January 2006

Volume 06, Number 01



### It's Time Again for Fantastic Eagle Viewing on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers! The 11th Annual Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

Saturday, January 14 & Sunday, January 15  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



of its big rivers, many lakes and wetland areas, is especially attractive to eagles, one of the largest birds of prey in the world. The Chain of Rocks rapids to the south of the bridge are ideal fishing grounds. The bridge itself—a former Route 66 crossing owned by the City of Madison, Ill., and renovated in 1999 by Trailnet as one of the country's longest pedestrian/bicycle bridges—makes an ideal viewing platform for both children and adults. From the bridge, viewers can watch eagles fishing, riding ice floes, soaring overhead or roosting in nearby trees. Volunteers will be on hand and ready to help eagle-viewing visitors look for eagles in tree branches or floes of ice using high-power spotting scopes. A warming tent in the middle of the bridge gives folks a place to warm up and learn about the confluence and its animal inhabitants, such as the majestic American bald eagle. In addition, the World Bird Sanctuary will offer free programs for the public, featuring a live eagle education program every ½ hour from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. To see these incredible birds so close up is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

During the winter, the Mississippi River hosts one of North America's largest concentrations of bald eagles, which are drawn to areas of open water in search of fish—their preferred food. Each fall, thousands of eagles begin to migrate south from their nesting range in Canada and the Great Lakes states to hunt around the open waters of our rivers and lakes. Missouri, because

The Lewis & Clark re-enactors will set up camp in the style of the 1804 – 1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition. With 2006 being the anniversary of their return voyage, it's an exciting time to listen and interact to tales of life during the explorer's time.

The Lion's Club International will once again be collecting no-longer-used eyeglasses. This "Eagle Eye Program" brings sight to those in need in third-world countries. Collection barrels will be placed at both entrances to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, so don't forget those no-longer-needed eyeglasses!

Free parking is available at the St. Louis Welcome Center, just north of Riverview Drive and I-270, and at North Riverfront Park, Riverview Drive south of the water treatment plant. Free shuttle buses will be available at both locations to transport visitors to the Missouri Bridge entrance. For a fee of \$5, visitors may park at the Missouri entrance to the bridge; handicapped visitors may park in this lot free of charge.

A final word of caution, bundle up—it gets extremely cold on the bridge! Gloves, hats and scarves will keep you nice and warm and lip balm and sunglasses are recommended as well. It's also a good idea to bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. Sometimes you can see eagles roosting in the trees before you even get to the spotting scopes.

So come join us again for another season of great eagle viewing! You can find out more about eagles by visiting: [www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/birds/eagles](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/birds/eagles).



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Mo

waiting list. Interpretive services

proximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/)

6

Owl Prowl

Friday

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Families) Whooo is calling in the woods? Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls and winter visitors. Then take a stroll on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and call in some owls close to us. Warm clothing is necessary for the walk portion of this program. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin December 22.)

7

Dresser Island Hike

Saturday

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Adults) Where can you hike along a big river in winter and see pelicans, ducks, geese, trumpeter swans, eagles, hawks, gulls, turkey, deer and many smaller birds? The place is Dresser Island and it is located near West Alton in St. Charles County. Join us for a 6 ½-mile hike to look for wildlife along the Mississippi River and enjoy the winter scenery that our big rivers offer so near to St. Louis. *Naturalist: Marv Staloch.* (Reservations begin December 22.)



19

Picture in Tissue

Thursday

10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7-12) Learn different characteristics of flowers and then make a picture with colored tissue paper in a collage. *Naturalist: Gladys Kullman.* (Reservations begin January 5.)

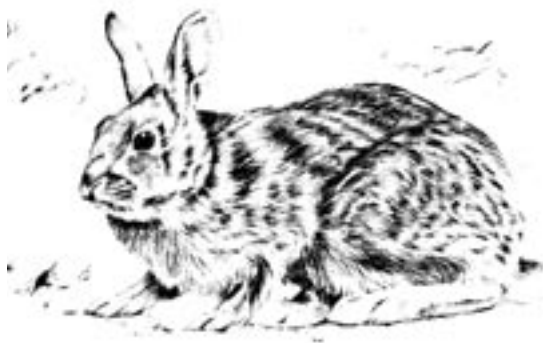
28

Wintering Habits of Missouri Animals

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Families) Who’s foraging for mossy treats while in a gall another sleeps? Learn how animals adapt to Missouri’s cold winters, make a treat for our feathered friends and take a short hike to see who has been out. Please dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Angel Stahr.* (Reservations begin January 13.)



Return this form to us by February 3, 2006. Thank you!

Making Tracks  
St. Louis Region Newsletter

We want to spend your tax money wisely. Therefore, we need your help to clean up our mailing list. Please let us know if you are receiving duplicate copies of the *Making Tracks* newsletter, or if there are errors or changes in your name or mailing address.

Please complete and return this questionnaire by **February 3, 2006**. If we do not receive a response by that date, your name will be removed from the mailing list. One newsletter per family, please.

Yes! I want to continue to receive *Making Tracks*!

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box:

- No corrections needed ☐  
New/corrected address ☐  
Misspelling ☐  
Duplicate mailings ☐

Comments:

If you are correcting an error, please print the correction(s) below:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Return your completed form by February 3 to:  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Making Tracks  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304

# Rockwoods Reservation

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**2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Mo waiting li

Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/)

## Rockwoods Reservation Hours of Operation to Change

Beginning January 1, 2006, Rockwoods Reservation will adjust its hours of operation for the education center. The new hours will be Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. year round (closed all state holidays). The education center will be closed to the public on Saturdays and Sundays. In the past, it has been open on weekends during the months of March, April, May and September and October.

Visitor usage of the education center has declined, however, overall visitation at Rockwoods has remained stable on both weekdays and weekends. The decision to adjust the hours of operation for the education center was a direct result of its limited use by the community. In addition, staffing shortages made it necessary to maintain efficient management functions at Rockwoods.

The area hours will remain the same, daily from sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Visitors will be able to access the miles of trails and enjoy the picnic areas as well as restrooms located in the Cottonwood picnic area. So plan on taking a hike, explore the prairie or attend one of the many diverse education programs that will still be offered on weekends.

For more information about Rockwoods and its programs, call (636) 458-2236 or visit us online at <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/>

## February is Maple Sugar Month

*Sweeten Up Your Day with Sugary Magic!*

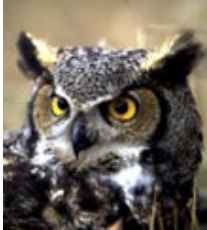
Looking for something to cure your winter blues? Feel like you can't stay inside one more day? Well, grab your coats and hats and head out to Rockwoods Reservation in February for our season of maple sugaring. You will get the chance to participate in one of nature's most amazing gifts and learn an old Missouri tradition. Join us as we tap maple trees, collect the sap and turn it into a mouth-watering treat. Make sure to look in February's edition of *Making Tracks* for dates and times. It is sure to sweeten up your day!

## 6 Owl Prowl

Friday

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Families) Do you know how many types of owls live in Missouri? Come to Rockwoods to discover the answer to this question and many more! Dress for the weather; part of the program will be a hike into our winter wonderland. *Naturalist: Sally Roberts.* (Reservations begin December 22.)



## 14 Winter Birding

Saturday

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

(Families) Do you ever wonder what kind of birds are hanging around in the winter? Come find out while you learn how to identify some of Missouri's over-wintering, resident birds as well as some winter visitors. Dress warmly and be prepared for a short hike. *Naturalist: Angela East.* (Reservations begin January 3.)

## 23 Maple Sugar: Tree Tapping

Monday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 & up) It's time to get ready for our upcoming Maple Sugar Season and there are trees to be tapped! You'll learn the different parts of a tree, how to tap a tree and what equipment is needed to do it. This program will NOT teach you how to make syrup. No younger siblings, please. Dress for the weather. To learn more about the secrets of sap production and creation of syrup, look for our special programs offered in February. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin January 9.)

## Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones

Jane Deschu.....	200 hours
Jerry Rinaldi.....	2000 hours
Karen Kelly.....	4000 hours

# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

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**801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 W

our waiting list. Interpretive services are av

north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/)

## 14&15 Eagle Viewing

Saturday

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(All Ages & Scouts) Kill two birds with one stone... Wait! It's just an old saying. What we really want you to do is discover the bald eagle and the confluence at Columbia Bottom. View eagles from the boat ramp, as they soar over the Missouri River. Spotting scopes will be set up. Or, you can use your own binoculars. Then, visit the confluence viewing platform to take an awe-inspiring look at where the Missouri and Mississippi rivers meet. (No reservations necessary.)

## 19 Animal Autographs

Thursday

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) How can you tell which animals live at Columbia Bottom? Preschoolers investigate, both indoors and outdoors, as they hunt for tracks, identify animals and make a field guide. We will also create an art project, read a story and have other fun activities as part of our animal-tracking adventure. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin January 5.)



## 21 Owl Pellets: Food For Thought

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) What do owls eat? Where do they fit on the food chain? How do owls benefit our environment? Begin your investigation of owls from the inside out! Dissect sanitized owl pellets. You will be amazed at what you find! Scouts are welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.* (Reservations begin January 7.)

## 26 Columbia Bottom Conservation Book Club

Thursday

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages Teen & up) Too cold, dark or just plain ugly to go outside? Join us for a warm and enlightening discussion on how to enjoy nature from your armchair. At our first meeting, we'll decide which books we'd like to read. Then, we'll meet the third Thursday of each month to discuss the books we've chosen and read ahead of time. They could be outdoors how-to books, educational or just good nature stories. So, bring your coffee mug as well as your thoughts about what books you'd like to read. *Volunteer Naturalist: Denise Moorman.* (Reservations begin January 12.)

## 28 Celebrate Groundhog Day!

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 2-6) What is Groundhog Day? Can groundhogs really predict the weather? Learn the answers to these questions and many more. Crawl through groundhog tunnels, listen to stories, make crafts and play games. *Volunteer Naturalist: Andra Stanley.* (Reservations begin January 14.)



11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Mo wai

Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/)

8

Eagle Fest

Sunday1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Families) Come and enjoy the fun-filled educational experience celebrating the return of the bald eagle to Missouri. This day of discovery, suitable for all ages, will consist of a rich variety of crafts, stories, music and songs, videos and much more. (No reservations necessary.)

14

Close Encounters

Saturday10 a.m. – Noon

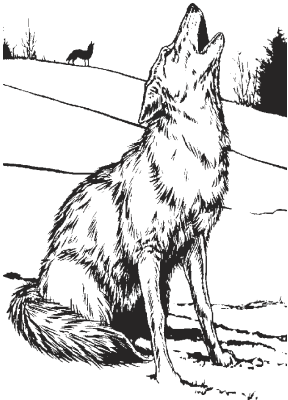
(Ages 7-12) Can you see it? Let’s investigate critters and natural objects while practicing the basics of microscope use. We will venture outdoors to gather specimens and objects. Then back indoors participants will view, identify and share their discoveries. *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin December 27.)

19

Surviving Winter

Thursday10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

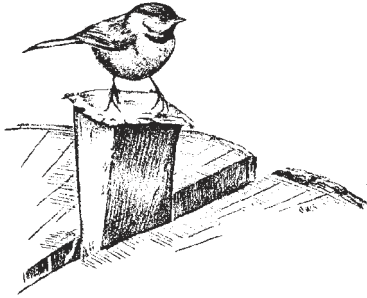
(Ages 7-12) Plants and animals have adaptations that help them survive the cold winter weather. Come learn how a variety of animals and plants can actually survive in these harsh conditions. We will also hit the trail to look for signs of animal activity, so be sure to bundle up. *Staff Naturalist: Jada Barhorst.* (Reservations begin January 5.)



23

HOMESCHOOL  
Avian Adaptations  
at Henges

*Monday 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 7 & up) While some birds are living it up in Central and South America for the winter, others are toughing out the cold here in Missouri. We will learn about these adaptations that make their amazing lives possible! We will first study birds’ wings, feathers, beaks and feet in the classroom. Afterwards, we will all try our luck at finding some of Henges’ winter birds using binoculars and field guides. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. *Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy.* (Reservations begin January 9.)



25

Tap! Tap! Tap!  
Woodpeckers

Wednesday10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) Who’s doing all that tapping? Join us to learn about those noisy woodpeckers. We’ll make a suet feeder too. *Volunteer Naturalist: Janyce Beyer.* (Reservations begin January 11.)



It’s Feeding Time!

Come out to Powder Valley every Sunday at 1 p.m. to watch the frenzy as the fish in our 3000-gallon aquarium are fed. Watch and learn the different feeding techniques of these native big river fish as they go wild during their feeding. Species include channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish, common carp, hybrid bass, white bass, shortnose and longnose gar, smallmouth buffalo, freshwater drum, gizzard shad and softshell turtle. (No reservations necessary.)

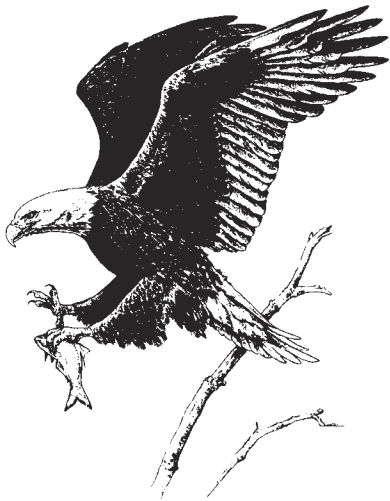
“Where Eagles Soar”  
DVD

The bald eagle became our national emblem in 1782. Their numbers declined, though, as people spread across the continent, destroying the eagles’ nesting habitat, as well as the birds themselves.

This movie tells not only how these magnificent birds became endangered in Missouri, but how they’ve been brought back to begin nesting and raising eaglets in this state.

Whether they’re swooping to catch fish, perched and preening, or feeding their young, the bald eagles in this MDC movie will delight you. Learn why this regal bird, whose numbers are once again on the rise, deserves our respect.

Throughout the month of January, this DVD can be yours for only \$8!



January Hallway Artist

Charm Lindner

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is proud to present Charm Lindner as the January Hallway Exhibit Artist. Charm Lindner is a wife, mother, grandmother, a new great-grandmother, award-winning artist, award-winning kite maker and long time resident of Jefferson County, Missouri.

After years of painting on everything from fabrics to rocks, Charm and her husband discovered the art of painting kites. Charm has many awards nationwide and has been awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in craftsmanship in “The World’s Miniature Competition” for her paintings on small kites that are three inches or smaller. These are small kites that really fly. Charm is one of only two people in the United States to place in this competition this year. Charm has small kites in museums throughout the country and also in Japan and China. She also enjoys doing workshops for children and adults, covering the history of kiting, kites from other countries and safety of flying kites, including a chance for the children to draw on and make their own kites.

When Charm retired, her husband was worried she would get bored, so he signed her up for a watercolor and drawing class. Charm took to the drawing and advanced right into color pencils. She has taken many awards for her drawings in numerous shows including “The St. Louis Artist Guild” and the “International Colored Pencil Society of America.”

Most of Charm’s paintings and drawings are very tight and realistic. She looks at an object and draws it in all its detail. A small twig, a feather in the sand, a flower, a babbling brook, all of these things, she tries to draw in every detail so it looks like you have the object in your hand. Charm hopes people viewing her paintings and drawings will feel life within them.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Warene Anderson.....	3700 hours	Linda Hibbits.....	700 hours
Tom Bayer.....	1000 hours	Susan Hussey.....	1000 hours
Alma Dulz.....	3600 hours	Jack McGinnis.....	4500 hours
Maury Frein.....	900 hours	Ed Witte.....	2700 hours